GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3794
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
River Pollution
Gopal Dr. K.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the traditional way of cremation along the banks of rivers is causing pollution in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon including plans for eco-friendly measures in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Cremation of bodies along the banks of rivers is one of the sources of pollution of rivers in the country. Construction of electric/improved wood crematoria to check pollution due to throwing of un-burnt/half-burnt dead bodies is one of the activities taken up under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) programmes for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers in the country along with interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities and river front development. These crematoria are more eco-friendly & fuel-efficient in comparison to traditional way of cremation and help in combating air pollution and deforestation.

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